

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 2932

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of autonomous motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 541.001(1), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Operator" means, as used in reference to a vehicle, a person who drives or has physical control of a vehicle, except as provided by Section 545.428(b).

SECTION 2. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.428 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.428. AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Autonomous motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that uses autonomous technology to operate itself without the active control or continuous monitoring of a person.

(2) "Autonomous technology" means technology installed on a motor vehicle enabling the vehicle to operate without the active control or continuous monitoring of a person. The term does not include, except to the extent that such a system may be a component of autonomous technology, individual safety systems or driver assistance systems that enhance safety or provide driver assistance, but are not individually capable of operating a motor vehicle without the active control or continuous monitoring of a person, such as systems designed to provide:

- 1           (A) collision avoidance;
- 2           (B) electronic blind spot assistance;
- 3           (C) crash avoidance;
- 4           (D) automated emergency braking;
- 5           (E) parking assistance;
- 6           (F) adaptive cruise control;
- 7           (G) lane keep assistance;
- 8           (H) lane departure warning; or
- 9           (I) traffic jam and queuing assistance.

10           (b) The operator of an autonomous motor vehicle operating  
11 with the use of autonomous technology is the person who causes the  
12 vehicle's autonomous technology to engage, regardless of whether  
13 the person is physically in the autonomous motor vehicle while the  
14 vehicle is operating.

15           (c) A person who operates an autonomous motor vehicle under  
16 Subsection (b) must possess a valid driver's license.

17           (d) The department shall adopt rules authorizing the  
18 operation of autonomous motor vehicles on roadways and public  
19 highways in this state, including rules:

20                   (1) establishing minimum requirements that an  
21 autonomous motor vehicle must meet before the vehicle may be  
22 operated on a roadway or public highway in this state;

23                   (2) establishing insurance requirements for:

24                           (A) autonomous motor vehicle operators in this  
25 state; and

26                           (B) manufacturers of autonomous motor vehicles  
27 that may test their vehicles in this state;

1           (3) governing the safe operation of autonomous motor  
2 vehicles on roadways and public highways in this state;

3           (4) governing the testing of autonomous motor vehicles  
4 in this state; and

5           (5) restricting the testing of autonomous motor  
6 vehicles to certain geographic regions of this state.

7           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.